

HONORING THE EDISON 64

HON. ROBERT A. BRADY

OF PENNSYLVANIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, May 26, 2016

Mr. BRADY of Pennsylvania. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to honor the Edison 64. These 64 former Thomas Edison High School students from Philadelphia, Pennsylvania, made the ultimate sacrifice, giving their lives fighting in the Vietnam War—becoming the highest number of casualties from the war experienced by any high school in the United States.

Honoring these former students has been an ongoing tradition. In 1989, through private funds and fundraising, staff and students dedicated a bronze memorial plaque for public display in the new Edison-Fareira High School. A memorial garden was also built on the school premises. Twenty-five years later, on November 8, 2014, a Pennsylvania Historical Marker was dedicated on the site of the original Thomas A. Edison High School located at 8th Street and Lehigh Avenue. This tradition of respect continues on to the present where annual candle lighting ceremonies are held to honor the young men whose lives were ended too early. The ceremonies are educational in nature, the focus of which is sharing Edison's proud legacy with the current student body and new staff. Ceremonies are held prior to the Memorial Day Holiday. Over a hundred veterans, some survivor families and many Edison alumni attend this very special assembly.

The newest honorarium for the Edison 64 will take place on May 27, 2016. In commemoration of the sacrifice of these young men and in recognition of the loss to the community, Luzerne Street between Whitaker Avenue and North 5th Street (in front of the new Edison High School located at 151 West Luzerne Street) will be renamed "Edison 64 Memorial Street."

Mr. Speaker, the unselfish sacrifice, courage and dedication to the welfare of our country will never be forgotten and I ask that you and my distinguished colleagues join me in honoring the memory of the Edison 64.

PERSONAL EXPLANATION

HON. JOHN SHIMKUS

OF ILLINOIS

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, May 26, 2016

Mr. SHIMKUS. Mr. Speaker, on roll call No. 258 I mistakenly voted yea when I intended to vote nay.

PERSONAL EXPLANATION

HON. PETER WELCH

OF VERMONT

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, May 26, 2016

Mr. WELCH. Mr. Speaker, I would like to indicate that I inadvertently voted "No" on Roll Call 237. I intended to vote "Yes".

HONORING COLONEL BERT RICE

HON. C. A. DUTCH RUPPERSBERGER

OF MARYLAND

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, May 26, 2016

Mr. RUPPERSBERGER. Mr. Speaker, I rise before you today to recognize Colonel Bert Rice—a United States veteran and dedicated civilian employee—on the occasion of his retirement after more than 60 years of service to his country.

A Montana native, Colonel Rice joined the U.S. Army Reserves as a private in 1956. He earned his degree from Montana State University and, as an ROTC distinguished graduate, was commissioned a 2nd Lieutenant of infantry in 1959. He went on to achieve his Master's Degree in supervision and management at Central Michigan University in 1977.

Colonel Rice's highly decorated active duty career spanned 30 years, including two tours of duty in Vietnam, where he flew armed helicopters and, in his second tour, commanded Company B, 25th Aviation Battalion, 25th Infantry Division. Colonel Rice also served in Iran during its revolution in 1979. His many stateside assignments include three years with the Pentagon.

In 2003, Colonel Rice was hired by the Department of the Army at Fort Meade, Maryland, where he worked until his recent retirement. He served as project officer and program manager for several important efforts that included infrastructure improvements and the major BRAC undertaking that brought thousands of new jobs to the base and the region.

While too numerous to mention in their entirety, Colonel Rice's military decorations include the Silver Star, Legion of Merit, Distinguished Flying Cross with OLC, Bronze Star with OLC, Joint Service Medal and the Army Commendation Medal with OLC. He also has many civilian accolades.

Colonel Rice's many volunteer efforts reflect the servant-hearted manner in which he approached every aspect of his life. He served as Commander-in-Chief of the Military Order of World Wars, an organization for retired military. In 2007, Colonel Rice was named Greater Odenton Improvement Association's Citizen of the Year for his community service.

Colonel Rice is a dedicated husband to his wife of 56 years and a committed father to two Army combat veterans. He also has four grandchildren.

Mr. Speaker, I have had the privilege of personally knowing Colonel Rice since his days serving on the Anne Arundel County Council. I know him to be a hard-working, patriotic and ever-helpful community leader. I ask that you join with me today to honor Colonel Bert Rice, whose life of service to the United States is deserving of our deepest gratitude. It is with great pride that I congratulate him on his retirement and wish him many more years of continued success and happiness.

PERSONAL EXPLANATION

HON. KEITH ELLISON

OF MINNESOTA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, May 26, 2016

Mr. ELLISON. Mr. Speaker, during Roll Call Vote number 242 on the McNerney amend-

ment to H.R. 5055, I mistakenly recorded my vote as no when I should have voted yes.

HUMAN RIGHTS DEFENDER AND
POLITICAL PRISONER, TRAN
HUYNH DUY THUC

HON. LORETTA SANCHEZ

OF CALIFORNIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, May 26, 2016

Ms. LORETTA SANCHEZ of California. Mr. Speaker, for the past few days, I've followed President Obama's engagement with the citizens and government of Vietnam. It was a momentous occasion for the Vietnamese people to have their struggles acknowledged by the President of the United States.

I commend President Obama for emphasizing human rights and promoting freedom of speech, assembly, and expression; as well as internet freedom, education and economic reforms. Yet, I am disappointed that President Obama did not call for the release of all political prisoners and did not publicly name the human rights activists who were detained and prevented from meeting with him.

I would like to call attention to a courageous human rights defender and political prisoner, Mr. Tran Huynh Duy Thuc. As a blogger and entrepreneur, Mr. Thuc peacefully called for political and economic reform in Vietnam. In 2009, Mr. Thuc was arrested, and in 2010, during a one-day trial, he was prosecuted for "conducting activities aimed at overthrowing the people's administration" under Article 79 of the Penal Code. The Vietnamese government sentenced him to 16 years imprisonment and 5 years house arrest upon release. To protest the ongoing injustices and mark the seventh year of his unjust imprisonment in the Nghe An prison, Mr. Thuc has begun an indefinite hunger strike.

I urge you to stand in solidarity with me to shine a light on Mr. Thuc's plight as he courageously fights for the basic freedoms and rights that Americans treasure.

CYNTHIA DOMINGUEZ

HON. ED PERLMUTTER

OF COLORADO

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, May 26, 2016

Mr. PERLMUTTER. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to recognize and applaud Cynthia Dominguez for receiving the Arvada Wheat Ridge Service Ambassadors for Youth award.

Cynthia Dominguez is a 12th grader at Sobesky Academy and received this award because her determination and hard work have allowed her to overcome adversities.

The dedication demonstrated by Cynthia Dominguez is exemplary of the type of achievement that can be attained with hard work and perseverance. It is essential students at all levels strive to make the most of their education and develop a work ethic which will guide them for the rest of their lives.

I extend my deepest congratulations to Cynthia Dominguez for winning the Arvada Wheat Ridge Service Ambassadors for Youth award. I have no doubt she will exhibit the same dedication and character in all of her future accomplishments.